

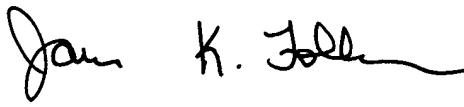
REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that dependent Claims 3-5 and 12 through 17 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if amended into independent form to include all of the features of their associated base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have cancelled Claim 3, without prejudice, and have added the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 3 into Claim 1, thereby placing independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2 and 6-11 into condition for allowance. Applicants have also amended Claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, and 16 into independent form, thereby placing these claims, and associated dependent Claims 15 and 17, into condition for allowance. Finally, Applicants have also made minor grammatical changes to several of the claims. Thus, as all of the pending claims (Claims 1, 2, and 4-17) are believed to be in condition for allowance, an indication of such allowance is respectfully requested.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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